

## Motions

Motion number	2
Name of the person introducing the Motion to the GA	Christopher Rivas
Member party	Andalucía Por Sí – Andalucistas and Chunta Aragonesista
Title (of the Motion)	<b><i>THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WET WIPES AND THE NEED FOR EUROPEAN-LEVEL REGULATION</i></b>
<b><u>MOTION ON THE ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT OF WET WIPES AND THE NEED FOR EUROPEAN-LEVEL REGULATION</u></b>	
<p><b>REASONING:</b></p> <p>The increasing use of wet wipes across Europe has created a serious <b>environmental and sustainability problem</b>. Although many of them are labeled as "disposable," their <b>plastic-based composition prevents them from degrading</b> in sewage systems, causing blockages in <b>wastewater and stormwater drainage channels</b>. This issue not only affects <b>urban infrastructure</b> but also <b>pollutes aquatic ecosystems</b> and poses a <b>threat to biodiversity and public health</b>.</p> <p>The <b>EU Directive 2019/904 on Single-Use Plastics</b> establishes <b>specific labeling requirements</b> for wet wipes containing plastic, mandating that consumers be informed about their <b>environmental impact</b>. Additionally, it imposes <b>Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)</b> obligations to cover the costs of <b>waste cleanup and public awareness campaigns</b>. However, this regulation <b>does not prohibit or restrict the sale of plastic-containing wipes</b>, allowing these products to continue <b>significantly contributing to environmental pollution</b>.</p> <p>Blockages in sewage systems caused by wet wipes <b>increase maintenance costs for sanitation infrastructure</b>, while their waste <b>persists in the environment</b>, creating a <b>growing problem of water pollution and microplastic release</b>. The <b>lack of stricter regulations</b> on their composition and disposal <b>undermines the environmental sustainability principles promoted by the European Union</b>.</p> <p><b>THE EUROPEAN FREE ALLIANCE CALLS FOR:</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1. Adopt stricter legislative measures to limit or ban the placing on the market of plastic-containing wet wipes that are not fully biodegradable.</b></li> </ol>	

2. **Promote research and development of biodegradable and sustainable alternatives**, ensuring their **economic accessibility for consumers**.
3. **Strengthen awareness campaigns at the European level on the environmental impacts of wet wipes**, encouraging the use of **reusable and environmentally friendly products**.
4. **Establish a more rigorous Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR) framework**, requiring **manufacturers and distributors of wet wipes to take on greater commitments in waste management**, including financing **efficient collection and recycling systems**.
5. **Enhance labeling standards** for these products, ensuring **more visible and explicit warnings** about their **environmental impact and proper disposal instructions**.
6. **Evaluate the impact of wet wipes on European aquatic ecosystems** and implement **measures to reduce pollution from improper disposal**, in line with the **Water Framework Directive** and **marine plastic reduction strategies**.

### **LEGISLATION THAT IS VIOLATED**

*a) **Directive (EU) 2019/904 on the reduction of the impact of certain plastic products on the environment**, which sets specific obligations for the labelling, awareness, and extended producer responsibility (EPR) of products such as wet wipes, and aims to reduce their environmental impact. The continued lack of restrictions on non-biodegradable plastic-containing wipes contradicts the directive's purpose.*

*b) **Directive 2008/105/EC on Environmental Quality Standards** in the field of water policy, which complements the Water Framework Directive and sets limits on pollutants in surface waters. The widespread release of microplastics and chemical additives from wet wipes into aquatic ecosystems violates these environmental quality standards.*

*c) **Directive 2000/60/EC – the EU Water Framework Directive (WFD)**, which requires the protection and improvement of the quality of waters across the EU. The improper disposal of wet wipes contributes to the degradation of water quality and obstructs compliance with WFD objectives.*

*d) **Directive 2006/118/EC on the protection of groundwater against pollution and deterioration**, which is undermined by the infiltration of microplastics and persistent pollutants into groundwater through inadequate waste management.*

**Please erase the text of the “(example)” before filling the form.**

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